STB News

July 2003

Kurt Steinhaus

Steinhaus to Serve as NM Education Policy Advisor

Kurt Steinhaus, program manager of STB's Education Program Office (EPO), has been appointed as Gov. Bill Richardson's education policy advisor.

In a recent interview, Steinhaus said that Richardson asked Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Pete Nanos to provide him with assistance in science, economic development, and education. Nanos asked Communications and External Relations Division Director David McCumber to fill the education policy position, and McCumber asked Steinhaus to accept the post.

In addition, Denny Erickson, a Laboratory employee in Weapons Physics, has been appointed as the governor's new science advisor, and Donna Smith and Elmer Salazar, both employees in Industrial Business Development, will serve as economic development advisors.

Steinhaus said his commitment to the state will take 25 percent of his time. "I'm going to assist the governor with the transition to a cabinet secretary of education," he said. He will also assist in the establishment of "a statewide advisory panel on education," and help with "the Laptop Learning Initiative," which has as its goal a laptop computer for every seventh grader in New Mexico.

Asked how his appointment will benefit the Laboratory and the state, Steinhaus said, "It will help the Laboratory improve communication about opportunities for students at the Laboratory." In the long term, he added, "If you improve the educational system in New Mexico, you allow the Lab to hire more New Mexicans." He paraphrased Nanos' view, saying, "We ought to be a good corporate citizen in New Mexico."

It will also help the Laboratory meet its Appendix F provisions (in the University of California management contract), and, "It will help the Laboratory by just being good public relations," Steinhaus said.

From the state's point of view, the appointment should "build a stronger partnership between New Mexico schools and universities and the Laboratory," Steinhaus said. Through his work,

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Luce Elected to Second Term on Important Policy Board

Richard Luce, director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Research Library (STB-RL), was recently elected to his second three-year term as a member of the board of directors of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO).

Luce was nominated by his peers, and all members of the organization voted in the subsequent election. His re-election is a significant honor.

NISO is a nonprofit association accredited by the American National Standards Institute. Luce said, "Information is the key ingredient for success in research and business today, and

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Luce (Cont'd from Page One)

standards are the foundation of all information systems. Technical standards provide the infrastructure that makes information systems and databases less expensive to develop, easier to use, and universal in value."

Asked to explain what NISO does, Luce said, "If you write a book, what should be on the title page? How do you describe it in bibliographic data?" He said, "NISO sets such standards for both traditional and new technologies supporting the full range of information-related needs, including retrieval, repurposing, storage, metadata, and preservation."

NISO will soon be establishing an important new standard, he added, called "OpenURL," which allows a user who has retrieved an information resource citation to obtain immediate access to the most "appropriate" copy of the full resource through the implementation of extended linking services. The selection of the best source for the full resource is based on the user's and the organization's preferences related to location, cost, contractual or license agreements in place with information suppliers, etc., and is made in a way transparent to the user. Herbert Van de Sompel, leader of Research Library Prototyping, has led the technical work to achieve the OpenURL draft standard.

In explaining the importance of the decisions NISO makes, Luce said, "If you can't find it and do something with it, it's useless." The standards set by NISO "allow us to exchange data." He added, "NISO has seen a shift from describing physical materials to digital objects." It has "recast itself," he said. All of the new standards these days are "related to digital information."

Rick Luce

There are 15 members of the NISO board. They come from a variety of backgrounds. The list shows members from Elsevier Science, the largest publisher of scientific information, to the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, from the Library of Congress to Random House, Inc.

Luce has a master's degree in public administration from San Diego State University and a master's in library and information science from the University of South Florida. His knowledge of computers is the result of his own efforts. "I just picked it up," he said. It seemed obvious, he said, that computer knowledge was going to be very important to libraries.

His theory turned out to be absolutely correct. He said he has been "working with automated library systems since 1978." He came to the Laboratory as RL director in 1991, and he has served as project leader of the Lab's "Library Without Walls." He is involved in numerous advisory and consulting positions related to digital libraries and electronic publishing. He received a Distinguished Performance Award in 1996 for contributions to technological innovations that support science and technology.

What might be the next big breakthrough for libraries? He mentioned three things:

"The information architecture that's used to support research information services is about to change fundamentally," he said. The new system will "support things like XML (extensible markup language) and combining digital objects together." It will affect the format by which publishable material will come to libraries, be stored, and be displayed and manipulated. "The architecture is becoming increasingly distributed," he said. In the future, not all materials will be in one central location.

Turning to a second point, he said, "We are beginning to see breakthroughs in the area of old-book scanning." Stanford University has in place the first "industrial strength" robotic scanning system. Old manuscripts in the public domain can now be digitized. The Stanford system can do about 1,160 pages per hour.

Finally, he sees the coming of "a real increase in terms of collaboration across players in the information industry." The day will come when it is possible for comprehensive collections from a variety of places to be at the fingertips of researchers at every participating institution.

Steinhaus (Cont'd from Page One)

the state will learn more about what educational achievements the Laboratory needs to see if more New Mexico students are to become part of the pipeline toward Laboratory employment. There are many opportunities available, Steinhaus noted, mentioning Lab jobs as technical staff members, technicians, workers in administration, support staff employees, business operations employees, and human resources workers.

In general, the state hopes to benefit from Laboratory expertise, he said.

Steinhaus added, "I see my job as helping to make connections between Lab personnel and people in the state to meet mutual goals."

Steinhaus had a background that made him a logical choice for the position. "I have 11 years of experience working at the state as a division director for Accountability and Information Services," he said. He served as chief information officer for the division from 1988 to 1999. Subsequently, he moved to the Laboratory as head of EPO.

People are emphasizing "the role of education in economic development in New Mexico" more and more, he said. "My role, along with Donna Smith's and Elmer Salazar's, is to help the state work that issue."

Asked how he feels about the new position, he said, "…It's a good learning opportunity for me."

He started work the week of July 14.

Students and Their Mentors Attend Ice Cream Social

Students and mentors working in STB gathered for an ice cream social on Tuesday, July 22, in Room 165 at Canyon School.

Kurt Steinhaus, program manager of the STB Educational Program Office, welcomed the students and told them, "The reason I come to work in the morning is students." He gave special thanks to Noelle Stillman, the student who organized the gathering, and he urged students to attend a scheduled meeting July 23 with Laboratory Director Pete Nanos.

STB Division Director Allen Hartford noted that there were a lot of returning students this summer. He said he hoped that their repeat employment meant they were enjoying their work at the Laboratory and in the division.

Hartford urged the students to attend programs, seminars, and meetings. "Please experience as much of the Laboratory as you can," he said. One of the main ideas of student employment, he added, "is to get you into the student pipeline" that leads, eventually to Laboratory jobs.

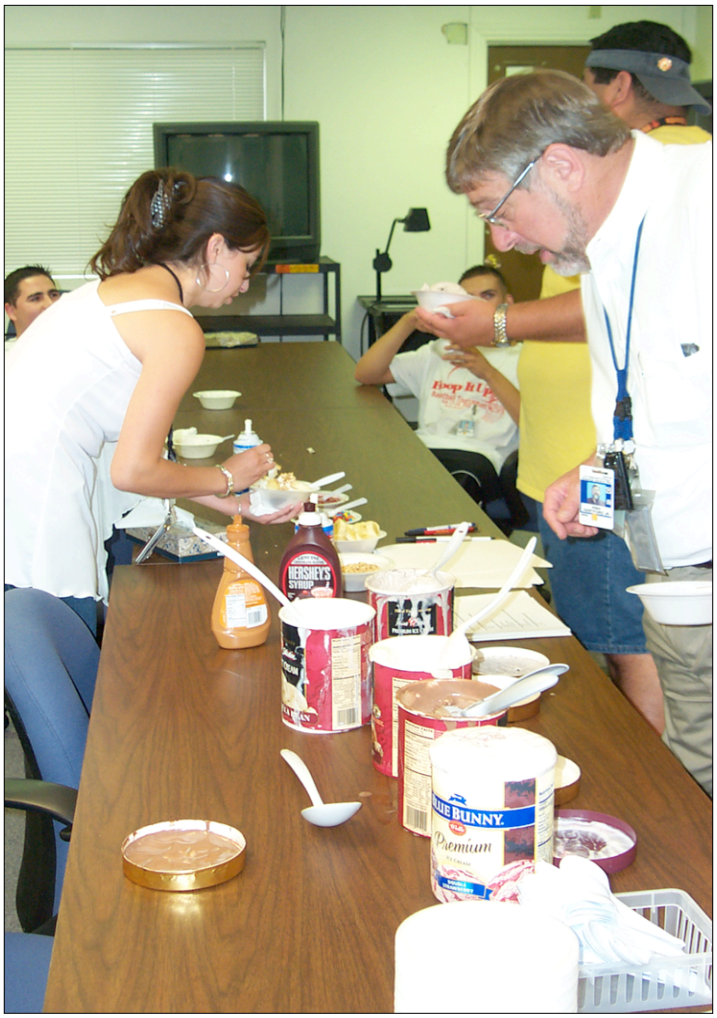
There are 17 students working in STB this summer. Their names, their organizations, and their mentors (in parentheses) are listed below.

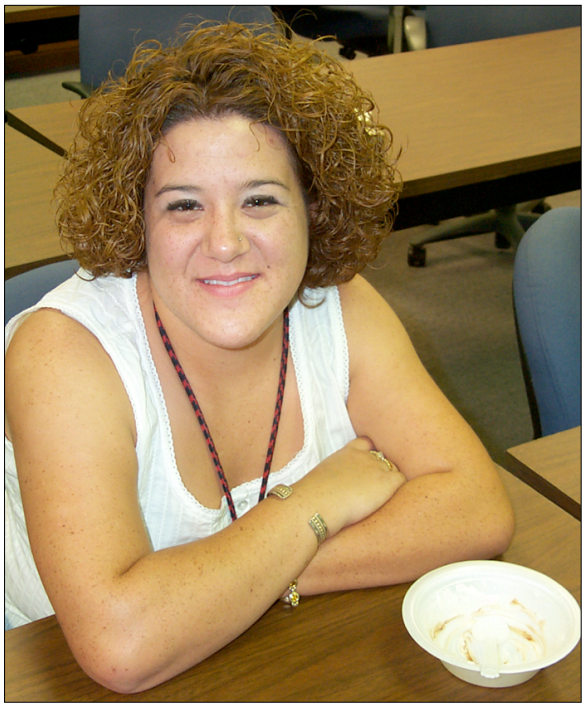
Antonya G. Jandacek, STB-University of California (STB-UC), (Mary Ann With); Anna L. Martinez, STB-UC, (Yolanda Galvez); Daniel P. Duran, STB Director's Office (STB-DSTB), (Caroline Trujillo); Ryan L. Martinez, STB-DSTB, (Peter Haase and Scott Smith); Alexander Macdonnell, STB-Education Program Office (STB-EPO), (Sandra Landry);

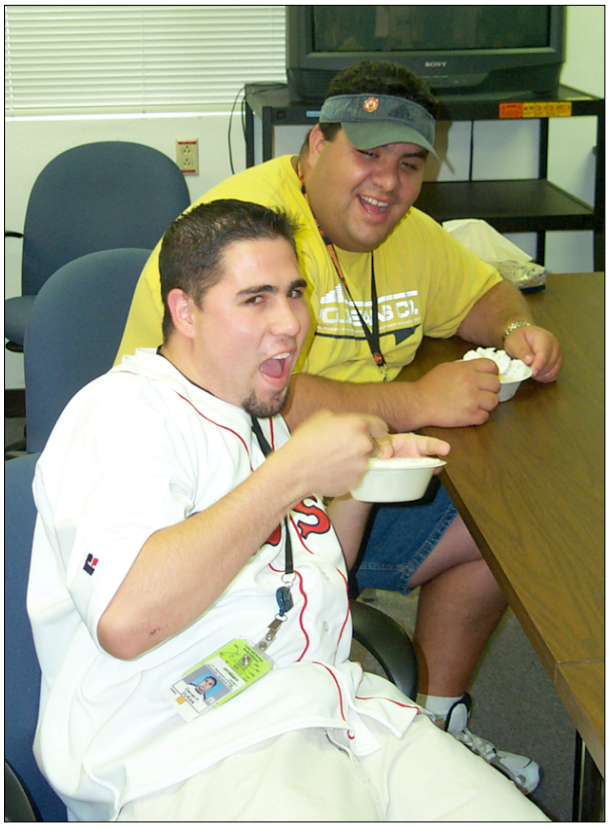
Elizabeth Ramirez, STB-EPO, (Carole Rutten); Leah I. Sandoval, STB-EPO, (Cynthia Bustos); Cheyenne L. Casados, STB-Research Library (STB-RL), (Elaine Deschamp); Jeremy Andrew Hussell, STB-RL, (Jackie Stack); Henry Jerez Morales, STB-RL, (Herbert Van de Sompel); Tamara Jo McMahon, STB-RL, (Stack);

Angelo Romero, STB-RL, (Deschamp); Jessica E. Salazar, STB-RL, (Deschamp); Shantelle Ulibarri, STB-RL, (Deschamp); Jewell Ward, STB-RL, (Stack); Dana Benelli, STB-Laboratory-Directed Research and Development (STB-LDRD), (David Watkins); and Noelle Stillman, STB-EPO, (Mindy Mendez).

Noelle Stillman, left, the student in EPO who arranged the party, chats with Dana Benelli, a student in STB-LDRD. (For more photos, go to the next page.)







Above, STB students and mentors enjoy a variety of ice cream types and toppings. That's Leah Sandoval filling her bowl on the left, while STB Division Leader Allen Hartford considers his options on the right. Those in the background, left to right, are Daniel Duran, Ryan Martinez, and Scott Smith. Above right, Liz Ramirez takes a break after finishing her ice cream. And, at right, Duran and Smith do a little clowning for the camerawoman.